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on Monochlamydeae, Monocotyledoneae, Gymnospermeae, and Pteridophyta, embracing in all about 1900 genera.

The descriptions are very full, and though the diagnostic characters are not indicated, this is largely atoned for by the complete system of synoptic characters under the tribes and subtribes.—C. R. B.

Germes of mind in plants.—A little book,⁶ unknown to us in the original French, now translated into English by A. M. SIMONS, well-known for his work in Chicago along social and philanthropic lines, shows that there exists in France the same sort of popularizers of science as in our country—writers who with a smattering of scientific knowledge lack the fuller knowledge that forms a background and furnishes scientific perspective. The facts of plant ecology are herein so distorted in their relation as to become caricatures; the use of words is so fanciful as to convert sober ideas into grotesque fairy-tales. For this, doubtless, the author is chiefly responsible; but the translator slips occasionally through unfamiliarity with a technical use of some common word.

The book is interesting; but it is as little "science" as a historical novel is history. It is difficult to see how such fiction can be "a contribution to the cause of socialism and science."—C. R. B.

Hepaticae of France.—LACOUTURE has prepared a helpful series of descriptive analytical keys to facilitate the identification of French liverworts by amateurs.⁷ The keys are arranged in a convenient bracket fashion, which is easy to use but makes the form of the thin volume rather unhandy and precludes its use as a field manual. The description of each species is accompanied by an excellent figure illustrating the most essential features described. The keys, in the form of tables, are arranged in three series, of which the first, consisting of tables I and II gives the characters of the tribes; the second, tables III-IX the characters of the genera; and the third, tables XII-XXXIX, the characters of the species and the illustrations. No attempt is made to exhibit the natural classification.—C. J. CHAMBERLAIN.

Index Filicum.—The fourth and fifth fascicles of CHRISTENSEN's important work⁸ were issued respectively in October and December last. They carry the references from *Cyathea lanuginosa* to *Gleichenia cryptocarpa*. The huge genus *Dryopteris* alone takes fifty-two pages, which indicates something of the comprehensiveness of the work. Let colleges and libraries hasten to support by their

⁶FRANCÉ, R. H., *Germes of mind in plants*. Trans. by A. M. SIMONS. 12mo. pp. 151. Chicago: C. H. Kerr & Co., 1905. 50 cts.

⁷LACOUTURE, CH., *Hépatiques de la France*. Tableaux synoptiques de caractères saillants des tribus, des genres, et des espèces. 4to. pp. 78. figs. 200. Paris: Paul Klincksieck. 1905. fr. 10.

⁸CHRISTENSEN, C., *Index Filicum*, etc. Fasc. 4, 5. Copenhagen: H. Hagerups Boghandel. 1905. Each 3sh. 6d.